REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 15-18 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 15-18 have been added.

According to claim 15 of the present invention, encrypted contents are broadcast from a broadcasting side and the contents are encrypted by the broadcasting side. These encrypted contents are stored into a storage medium at a receiving side. A play command is broadcast with a decryption key, after the encrypted contents are broadcast, at a time determined by the broadcasting side. The decryption key is stored into a memory at the receiving site. The play command causes the encrypted contents to be retrieved and the decryption key decrypts the encrypted contents and the decrypted contents are output and the decryption key is deleted from the memory when the output of the decrypted contents is finished.

According to claim 17, a broadcast receiver has a receiving unit which receives encrypted contents encrypted by a broadcasting side. The receiving unit also receives a play command with a decryption key at a time after broadcasting the encrypted contents. The time is predetermined by the broadcasting side. A storage medium stores the encrypted contents and a memory stores the encryption key. A processor retrieves the encrypted contents, decrypts the encrypted contents using the decryption key and deletes the decryption key from the memory when output of the decrypted contents is finished.

On the other hand, Tsukamoto et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,828) disclose an apparatus and method for transferring a limited reproduction right in data from a

broadcaster to a receiver. A signal indicating the limited reproduction right is transmitted by the broadcaster and stored by the receiver with the data. The receiver reproduces and processes the data according to this signal. As such, Tsukamoto et al merely disclose that data is transmitted by the broadcaster, but does not disclose that data is encrypted by the broadcasting side. This is because Tsukamoto et al do disclose that encipherer 22 encrypts a video signal in a receiving system 102A (see column 4, lines 4-18). Therefore, Tsukamoto et al clearly disclose that data is encrypted by the receiving side.

In addition, Tsukamoto et al do not disclose or suggest broadcasting a play command with a decryption key at a time after broadcasting. Instead, Tsukamoto et al merely disclose that a limited reproduction right is transmitted by the broadcaster. The limited reproduction right is not a decryption key, which is referred to as "an encryption key" in the disclosure of Tsukamoto et al. Tsukamoto et al disclose that encipherer 22 encrypts a video signal according to an encryption key in a receiving system 102A (see column 4, lines 4-18) and decipherer 25 decrypts an encrypted video signal according to the encryption key in a receiving system 102A (see column 4, lines 29-33). Therefore, the encryption key is only used at the receiving side.

Furthermore, Tsukamoto et al do not disclose or suggest that the decryption key is deleted from the memory when output of the decrypted contents is finished. According to Tsukamoto et al, the broadcasting station transmits a requested video program along with an access control signal indicating that reproduction is allowed until date Y (see column 7, lines 47-51) or transmits the requested video program

along with an access-control signal indicating that reproduction is allowed until time T (see column 7, lines 60-67). This access control signal merely indicates the term in which reproduction is allowed. As such, contents encrypted by the receiving side could possibly be decrypted in the case of unauthorized use of the receiver.

On the other hand, according to the present invention, by deleting a decryption key when the output of the decrypted contents is finished, unauthorized reproduction of contents can be prevented at times other than that determined by the broadcasting side even if the receiver is subjected to unauthorized use. This is because the decryption key is only transmitted from the broadcasting side and then is deleted and the receiving side.

The deficiencies in Tsukamoto et al are not overcome by resort to Ito et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,577,814). Ito et al also fail to disclose or suggest broadcasting encrypted contents from a broadcasting side wherein the encrypted contents are encrypted by the broadcasting side. Ito et al do not disclose or suggest broadcasting a play command with a decryption key at a time after broadcasting or that the decryption key is deleted from the memory when output of the decrypted contents is finished.

Since these references do not disclose the above-mentioned features of the present invention as recited in claims 15 and 17, they cannot realize the advantage of being able to broadcast contents using a narrow bandwidth so as to have users reproduce the contents only at a time predetermined by the broadcasters. Furthermore, the broadcast contents cannot be protected against being viewed at a

time different from that predetermined by the broadcasting side. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

Request for Interview

Applicants request that the Examiner conduct an interview with the undersigned prior to issuing an Office Action. As such, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to arrange an appropriate date and time for such interview.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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